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FILE

## Family receives letter from kidnaped priest

Chicago (UPI)—The family of Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, who was kidnaped nearly two months ago in Beirut, said yesterday a handwritten letter from the priest has given the family hope he is alive.

"We feel it is in the best interests of Father Jenco and the other parties involved not to disclose the contents of the letter," said John Jenco, the priest's brother.

He said the letter, two paragraphs long, "has given us, the family, a great deal of hope that he is alive." The letter received Friday represented the first contact the family has had with Jenco since his abduction.

John Jenco said, "It is in his own writing and signed by him . . . the writing is his."

Jenco, 50, who was in charge of Catholic Relief Services in Beirut when he was kidnaped Jan. 8, was the fifth American to be kidnaped and held for a long period of time in Lebanon.

Last month, Jenco's family expressed hope the priest's release was imminent, citing the release of television journalist Jeremy Levin, 52, who had been held 11 months in solitary confinement in eastern Lebanon.

Besides Jenco, three other Americans are still missing and presumed kidnaped in Lebanon. They are William Buckley, a political officer at the U.S. Embassy; Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister, and Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University of Beirut.